MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : It is reported that there is a small bazaar in each of the places Kollappalli, Paika, Kidangur, Kozhuvanal, Uzhavur, Cherpunkal, Pravittanam and Kurumannur in the Minachil taluk by the side of the road. There is some congestion there but not in the interior.

Budget allotment for the revision of pay of the staff of the Anchal Department.

291. **MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE** (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the additional allotment sanctioned for revising the pay of the staff of the Anchal Department has been utilised for that purpose; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, the reason for the same?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The member is referred to paragraph 24 of the Financial Secretary's speech introducing the Budget for 1105.

Price of Opium.

292. **MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE** (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that opium is being used in the State as a drug and not as an intoxicant;

(*b*) that it is among the labouring classes, the poor and those that live on alms that this drug is highly popular; and

(*c*) that it is the poor people in Travancore who are in distress on account of the raising of the price of opium?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Opium is used in the State mostly as a drug.

(*b*) and (*c*) The information is not available.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): ബി, സി, ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വിവരം കിട്ടിട്ടില്ലഎന്നാണല്ലൊ മറുപടി. ഏ വിഭാഗത്തിനു പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന മറുപടികൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഈ വിവരംകൂടി അവശ്യം സമ്പാദിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു തോന്നുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അതു ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കറുപ്പുതിന്നുന്നതിൽ ഉത്സാഹമുള്ളവർ കുറെ കറയുമായിരിക്കാം.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): ഇങ്ങിനെ കറുപ്പുതിന്നുന്നവർ ഏതുതരക്കാരാണെന്ന് തിരക്കഴചെയ്തിട്ടാണൊ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): തിരക്കഴ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല.

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MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolum*): അതൊരൌഷധമായിട്ടുപയോഗിക്കുന്നു എന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ആ വിധത്തിൽ വേണ്ട സഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഗവണ്മെൻറിനില്ലയോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): അതു അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു സഭയും വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്യുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരോടു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

Grant of free permit for the import of methylated spirit.

293. **MR. V. J. OOMMEN** (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that methylated spirit can never be used as an alcoholic beverage;

(*b*) that it is used for working stoves, incandescent lamps, and for the preparation of certain medicines intended only for external application:

(*c*) that at present (17th July 1929) it is included by the Excise Department under liquor, and imported only by those who hold license for the sale of foreign liquors;

(*d*) that the present price in British India and other Indian States is only 2½ to 3 annas per bottle of 24 ounces, while in Travancore the price is 12 annas;

(*e*) that only licensees of foreign liquors can sell methylated spirit; and

(*f*) that licenses are granted to owners of chemists' and druggists' stores to import medicated wines on a license fee of Rs. 25 only?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The answers are in the affirmative.

(*c*) It is included under 'liquor' but it is imported not only by those who hold licenses for the (wholesale) vend of foreign liquor but also by other persons for *bona fide* private use.

(*d*) The information is not available.

(*e*) Only licensees for the wholesale vend of the liquor can sell methylated spirit.

(*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

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